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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/050,830	01/18/2002	Gen Sasaki	111695	6926

25944 7590 05/08/2003

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRINH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3726

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

N.K

Office Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)	
	10/050,830	SASAKI ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Trinh T Nguyen	3726		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 January 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1: in lines 6 & 7, the "outer race" appears to lack a proper antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (as set forth on pages 1-2, lines 1-5 of page 3 of the specification, and Figures 6-12, hereinafter referred to as AAPA).

AAPA discloses a method of retaining a bearing in a hole formed in a housing comprising: inserting the bearing (1) in the hole; pushing material of the wall of the hole toward the center of the hole using a staking tool (6) with a diameter larger than that of the hole; pressing the material so as to contact with an end face of the outer race (2)

using the staking tool; and forming a locking section (3c) for retaining the outer race (2) (see especially Figure 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (as set forth on pages 1-2, lines 1-5 of page 3 of the specification, and Figures 6-12, hereinafter referred to as AAPA) in view of Potter (US 4,189,821).

AAPA discloses the claimed invention except for the combination of method steps as claimed in claim 2.

Potter teaches a similar combination of securing method steps for joining a first tubular member 30 to a second tubular member 31 (note that Potter's member 30 is equivalent to Applicant's member 9 and Potter's member 31 is equivalent to Applicant's member 2) together by forming a step 42 for retaining the member 31 within the hole, bringing one end of member 31 to contact the step (see Figure 4), and forming the locking section 45 (see Figure 5) to another end of member 31. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have secured the two tubular members of AAPA together by using the combination of Potter's securing method steps, in a similar manner as taught in Potter, in order to

provide a more efficient securing technique and thus improve the overall manufacturing procedure.

7. Claims 2, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (as set forth on pages 1-2, lines 1-5 of page 3 of the specification, and Figures 6-12, hereinafter referred to as AAPA) in view of Ridenour (US 4,442,586).

AAPA discloses the claimed invention except for the combination of method steps as claimed in claims 2, 3 and 5.

Ridenour teaches a similar combination of securing method steps for joining a first tubular member 15 to a second tubular member 16 (note that Ridenour's member 15 is equivalent to Applicant's member 9 and Ridenour's member 16 is equivalent to Applicant's member 2) together by forming a projection 51 & 52 at the other end of member 16, forming a concave section 42 & 43 corresponding to the projection, engaging the projection with the concave section (see Figure 4), and forming the locking section 32 matching the other end of member 16 (see Figure 5). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have secured the two tubular members of AAPA together by using the combination of Ridenour's securing method steps, in a similar manner as taught in Ridenour, in order to provide a more efficient securing technique and thus improve the overall manufacturing procedure.

8. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (as set forth on pages 1-2, lines 1-5 of page 3 of the

specification, and Figures 6-12, hereinafter is referred to as AAPA) in view of Reiser et al. (US 4,722,619).

AAPA discloses the claimed invention except for the combination of method steps as claimed in claim 4.

Reiser et al. teach a similar combination of securing method steps for joining a first member 1 to a second member 7 together by forming a projection 51 & 52 at the other end of member 16, forming projections 6, press fitting the second member 7 therebetween, and forming the locking sections (the bended projections 6 in Figure 2). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have secured the two members of AAPA together by using the combination of Reiser et al.'s securing method steps, in a similar manner as taught in Reiser et al., in order to provide a more efficient securing technique and thus improve the overall manufacturing procedure.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure are cited in form PTO-892 encloses herewith.
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trinh T Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-9082. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Vidovich can be reached on (703) 308-1513. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

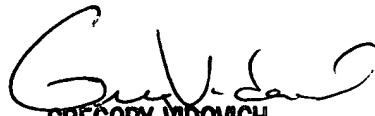
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305-3579 for regular communications and (703) 305-3579 for After Final
communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-
1148.

ttn
May 1, 2003



GREGORY V. DOVICH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700